

[Natural Medicines, 48, 208-212 (1994)]

[Lab. of Herbal Garden]

Pharmacognostical Studies of *Houttuyniae Herba* (1) Flavonoid Glycosides**Contents of *Houttuynia cordata* THUNB..**

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The amounts of five flavonoid glycosides contained in *Houttuynia cordata*, quercetin, hyperin, rutin, isoquercitrin and afzerin were determined by HPLC. Leaves had a high quercitrin content and the spikes had high quercitrin and hyperin contents, but the stems contained only a little and the rhizomes scarcely any of these flavonoid glycosides. The flavonoid glycoside contents and the glycoside profiles in the leaves remained constant as the plant grew. The commercial crude drugs of Chinese origin tended to have higher hyperin contents than Japanese samples.

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Studies on Genus *Urtica* in Turkey (1) Identification of *Urtica* in Turkey by Internal Structure of Axis and Petiole.

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Of the 5 species growing in Turkey, 4 species, *U. pilulifera*, *U. urens* and *U. haussknechii* are used as medicinal plants. Microscopic studies revealed that 1) the transverse section of axis of all the species except *U. pilulifera* was rhombic, 2) the petiole of all of the species except *U. urens* had 5-7 vascular bundles, 3) clustered crystal of calcium oxalate was observed in the axis and petiole of *U. dioica* and *U. haussknechii*, only in the node of *U. urens* and not at all in *U. pilulifera*.

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Report on Strain of *Zanthoxylum* sp. Called 'Budo-Zanshou' Cultivated in Wakayama Prefecture.

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A strain of *Zanthoxylum piperitum* has been cultivated in the limited area of the Shimizu-Chou (Wakayama Pref.). The cultivation area is approximately 50 ha, and the crop of fresh fruit is about 150 tons a year at the present. The pericarp of the fruit of this strain is thicker, the oil cavity is bigger, and the (processing) yield of pericarp from the fruit is higher than those of *Z. piperitum* forma *inermis*, called 'Asakura-zanshou' in Japanese Market. Thus, the pericarp was experimentally proved to contain a larger amount of essential oil, which is the essential effective component. This strain should be accepted as an effective crude drug.